

"W.J. MATTHESON DIES WHILE ABOARD YACHT" (NO OTHER INFO) 1930

DIED AT THE AGE OF 74 - HAD MADE MIAMI HIS WINTER HOME SINCE 1902 AND LEGAL RESIDENCE SINCE 1925 ...

1904 STARTED DEVELOP. ON KEY BISCAYNE ...

INDUSTRIAL CHEMIST WHO EXPERIMENTED WITH COAL TAR DIES ... ONE OF THE PRIMARY DIE EXPERTS IN THE COUNTRY.

HIS FORTUNE BASED ON HIS SUCCESS IN THE INDUSTRY. IN LATER LIFE WAS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SEVERAL COMPANIES INCLUDING BANK OF N.Y. & TRUST CO. ...

HAD JUST DONATED MATTHESON HAMMOCK PROPERTY TO DADE CO.

SMILEY, NIXON "PROGRESS TO ERASE ANOTHER LANDMARK." MIAMI HERALD.
Aug. 1968.

W.J. MATTHESON PURCHASED OVER 1,000 ACRES OF KEY BISCAYNE CA. 1908 - WAS COCONUT PLANTATION - ^{PORTION} DONATED FOR COUNTY PARK (CRANDON)

~~MADON MANDLEY - 4060 BATTERSEA RD. 667-2893~~

~~UNIVERSITY JOBS (1ST. WOMAN ARCHITECT IN MIA)~~

~~WORKED WITH CESARNO.~~

~~CAME to MIA in 1917 -~~

~~WORKED IN PHILADELPHIA BRIEFLY, RETURNED TO MIAMI in 1919~~

~~UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS~~

~~A NUMBER OF HOUSES IN MIAMI SHORES~~

~~DOOLEY HOUSE 96TH ST.~~

4 WATKINS
HERNIMAN
APRIL 1947

DEED BK 56, PG 367

... April 19, 1911 ... Wm DEERING & WIFE TO
W.J. MATHEWSON · A PORTION OF SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 SEC 21, T54,
R 41 - 6 ACRES MORE OR LESS, KNOWN AS LOT F ...
AND A PORTION OF LOT G.

DEED BK 34, PG 248

... OCTOBER 6, 1906 ... RICHARD CARNEY & WIFE TO
Wm J. MATHEWSON ... ALL SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 SEC 21,
T54, R 41,

[LEGAL REC? 4 WAY LODGE TRACT IN
NW 1/4 of SEC 28]

MUNROE COLLECTION -

PHOTOS OF 4WAY LODGE CA 1910 - NEWLY CONSTRUCTED.

VILLA SERENA 1911 - SIMILAR PLAN

SAME ARCHITECT?

MAI BE DE GAERNO

→ CALL KENNETH DE GAERNO 444-1559

(HE HAS ALL DE GAERNO PLANS) → 3791 EL FRANCO 3853 WK. 579-5262

→ NOT DE GAERNO

WAS PROBABLY BY A NORTHERN ARCHITECT.

1911 CITY DIRECTORY:

DE GAERNO W.C. 219 1/2 12TH [ONLY ARCHITECT LISTED]

1908 C.D

SAME ↑

BK1-338 EWARTON HEIGHTS

? Union Cong. Church TO Hugh W. Matheson WD 5/31/16 [Plymouth Ch. 31] LOT 13 BLK B
→ NOT WILL LAND

* 109/79 Wm. J. Matheson to Harriett Parson Jones [sic JAMES] WD 4/21/13 Lot F
109/79 " " " WD 4/21/13 Lot G.

→

DEED BK107 PG79

INDENTURE MADE April 13, 1913 BETWEEN Wm J. Matheson joined
by his wife HARRIET T. MATHESON ... HARRIET P. JAMES, PARTY
OF THE SECOND PART.. For 10 DOLLARS AND OTHER VALUABLE
CONSIDERATIONS ... LOTS F & G OF EWANTON HEIGHTS ...
PURCHASED BY Wm. MATHESON FROM KATHERINE^{R.} HUNTER & HUSBAND

→ [SEE DO. BK. 31, PG 238] by DEED FROM Wm. D. SEERING & WIFE
→ [SEE DO. BK. 56, PG 367] AND FROM RICHARD CARMER & WIFE
→ [SEE DO. BK. 34, PG 243]

Deed BL 31, PG 238

... FEB., 1906, BETWEEN K. E. HUNTER & ARTHUR H. HUNTER of
New Jersey) AND WM. J. NATHAN of D. C., D. C.
LEGAL DESC. A PORTION OF THE SW¹ & SW¹ & SEC 21, T54S, R41E,
10 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

[Cont.]

STATUS OF LAND-1933

THIS RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE IS KNOWN AS THE FOUR WAY LODGE. IT WAS BUILT CIRCA 1911 BY WILLIAM J. MATHESON. MATHESON MADE HIS FORTUNE AS AN INDUSTRIAL CHEMIST BY DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING THE USES OF COAL TAR DYES. IN 1904 HE SENT HIS SON HUGH TO THE FLORIDA ADEPONDACK SCHOOL (NOW RANSOM). YOUNG HUGH LIKED THE AREA SO MUCH HE ENCOURAGED HIS FATHER TO COME DOWN. BETWEEN 1906 AND 1911 THE ELDER MATHESON PURCHASED SEVERAL TRACTS OF LAND IN COCONUT GROVE AND CONSTRUCTED HIS FIRST HOME IN MIAMI, THE FOUR WAY LODGE. THE HOUSE WAS INTENDED TO BE ONLY A WINTER HOME, BUT BY THIS TIME MATHESON WAS INVESTING HEAVILY IN SOUTH FLORIDA REAL ESTATE. HE PURCHASED OVER 1000 ACRES OF KEY BISCAINE, WITH SON HUGH, ON WHICH HE STARTED A COCONUT PLANTATION. HE ALSO BOUGHT A LARGE PARCEL OF LAND OFF OLD CUTLER RD IN SOUTH DADE COUNTY. AS MORE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY BEGAN SPENDING LONGER PERIODS OF TIME IN COCONUT GROVE, THE FAMILY NEEDED A LARGER HOUSE. THE "FOUR WAY LODGE" WAS SOLD IN 1916 TO ARTHUR CURTIS JAMES AND HIS WIFE HARRIET PARSON JAMES. JAMES WAS ANOTHER MULTI-MILLIONAIRE FROM THE NORTH. HE WAS AT ONE TIME CONSIDERED THE SECOND WEALTHIEST MAN IN AMERICA. HIS GRANDFATHER, DANIEL JAMES, MADE A VAST FORTUNE IN COPPER, SILVER, AND GOLD MINING AS AN ASSOCIATE OF ANDREW SHEPHERD AND WILLIAM E. DODGE. A.C. JAMES ADDED TO THE FAMILY COFFER THROUGH THE WOOD AND PAULSON INDUSTRIES. AT THE TIME HE BOUGHT THE FOUR WAY LODGE STOOD ON APPROXIMATELY 20 ACRES WHICH RAN FROM BISCAINE BAY TO WEST OF MAIN HIGHWAY.

THE MATHESON FAMILY HAS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE HISTORY OF MIAMI THROUGHOUT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. WILLIAM AND HIS SON HUGH DONATED THE LAND FOR BOTH MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK AND CRANDON PARK ON KEY BISCAINE, TO DADE COUNTY. HUGH MATHESON SERVED AS THE MAYOR OF COCONUT GROVE FROM 1922-1923, BEFORE IT WAS ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF MIAMI. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO POSITIONS IN STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.